From: John Isaacson
To: Simmons, Denise
Cc: Elaine Zecher <ezecher@tisrael.org> (ezecher@tisrael.org)
Subject: RE: The Hewlett-Packard resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6:39:55 AM

Councilor Simmons,
Thanks very much for your thoughtful reply. You are absolutely right that this requires careful process and it may never appear before the Council which after all, does not have a Foreign Affairs Committee.
With appreciation,
Yours,
John Isaacson

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John Isaacson, Chair
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From: Simmons, Denise [mailto:dsimmons@cambridgema.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:23 PM
To: John Isaacson
Subject: Re: The Hewlett-Packard resolution

Dear Mr. Isaacson,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of passionate discussion in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of this resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about

this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: John Isaacson <JIsaacson@IMSearch.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 4:44 PM
To: City Council; McGovern, Marc; Devereux, Jan
Cc: Simmons, Denise; Carlone, Dennis; Elaine Zecher; atarsy@gmail.com; gary@pgcalc.com
Subject: The Hewlett-Packard resolution

Dear Mayor McGovern, Deputy Mayor Devereux, Councilor Simmons and Councilor Carlone.

I have been a resident of the City of Cambridge in one guise or another since 1970. We currently live at 81 Washington Ave, just up the street from Councilor Carlone, whom I regret I have not met. Over the years, we have admired the strong work of the Cambridge City government and have befriended many aspiring politicians, all people of good will.

I am the child of a holocaust survivor and though, often a critic of the government of Israel, as are many Israelis and American Jews, I am a confirmed Zionist, believing that the Jewish people deserve a homeland and no doubt so do Palestinians. The desire for a national homeland has deep roots.

I strongly and respectfully urge you to set this resolution aside. The BDS has often served as a thinly disguised form of anti-semitism a vehicle for some of the more deplorable sentiments that can emerge in our country. It has steadily lost ground, including in the US academy and for good reason. The Middle East if full of malfeasance and to single out the one country with a vigorous rule of law, when so many trample on human rights with impunity, sometimes murdering their fellow citizens wholesale, seems just a bit out of order.

I doubt very much that the citizens of Cambridge would support this resolution. I am confident that my neighbors would not.

Many thanks for your careful consideration,

Your proud fellow Cambridge citizen,

John Isaacson
81 Washington Ave,
Cambridge, MA 02140

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